

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Claims 1–5 (Canceled).

1        6 (Currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according  
2        to claim ~~2~~ 1, further comprising an authorization data writing section  
3        which writes said authorization data within a header information section of  
4        said digital audio data.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

1        8 (Currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according  
2        to claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein said interfaces of said general-purpose interface  
3        circuit section are selected from the group consisting of USB, IEEE1394,  
4        wireless LAN, and home RF.

1        9 (Currently Amended). A playback /recording method of digital audio  
2        data using an audio playback/recording apparatus having a  
3        playback/recording processing section, an audio output processing section,  
4        an external recording circuit section, a general-purpose interface circuit  
5        section, a protection processing section, a ROM, a RAM, and an expanded  
6        RAM, said method comprising:  
7                A) in a case in which input data input to the audio  
8        playback/recording apparatus are ~~playbacked~~ played back and recorded on  
9        an external recording medium,  
10                said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from  
11        an input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog audio data to  
12        digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the audio output  
13        processing section and playback/recording processing section,

14           said audio output processing section converts said received digital  
15 audio data to analog audio data and ~~playbacks~~ plays back said converted  
16 analog audio data,  
17           said playback/recording processing section compresses said digital  
18 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and  
19           after said audio output processing section ~~playbacks~~ plays back said  
20 digital audio data, said external recording circuit section records  
21 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM into an external  
22 recording medium;  
23           B) in a case in which input data input to the audio  
24 playback/recording apparatus are recorded on an external recording  
25 medium,  
26           said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from  
27 an input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog data audio  
28 data to digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the  
29 playback/recording processing section,  
30           said play back/recording processing section compresses said digital  
31 audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and  
32           said external recording circuit section records compressed digital  
33 audiodata stored in said RAM on the external recording medium;  
34           C) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording  
35 medium are ~~playbacked~~ played back,  
36           said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital  
37 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout  
38 data into said RAM,  
39           said playback/recording processing section decompresses said  
40 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM, and  
41           said audio output processing section converts said decompressed  
42 digital audio data to analog audio data and outputs said converted analog  
43 data to an output apparatus and ~~playbacks~~ plays back said analog audio  
44 data;

45                   D) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording  
46                   medium are transferred to an external apparatus,  
47                   said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital  
48                   audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout  
49                   data into said RAM,  
50                   said protection processing section generates authorization data  
51                   including an individual identifier and ~~a decryption~~ an encryption key so as  
52                   to encrypt data and encrypts said compressed digital audio data stored in  
53                   said RAM, said general-purpose interface circuit section outputs said  
54                   authorization data to said external apparatus, after that, outputs encrypted  
55                   compressed digital audio data to said external apparatus; and  
56                   E) in a case in which input data received from an external apparatus  
57                   are recorded on an external recording medium,  
58                   said general-purpose interface circuit section receives authorization  
59                   data including a decryption key from the external apparatus,  
60                   said protection processing section compares said individual  
61                   identifier included in said authorization data from the external apparatus  
62                   with an individual identifier list stored in the ROM and checks a  
63                   properness of a transmitting party,  
64                   said general-purpose interface circuit section receives encrypted  
65                   compressed digital audio data from the external apparatus and stores them  
66                   in the RAM,  
67                   said protection processing section decrypts encrypted compressed  
68                   digital audio data stored in the RAM by using the decryption key included  
69                   in the authorization data, and  
70                   said external recording circuit section records the compressed  
71                   digital audio data stored in the RAM into the external recording medium.